GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5263
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN GRAM PANCHAYATS
Jena Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats proposed to be provided with telephone facility especially in Samia, Dhanamandal, Kayina Gram Panchayat offices of Jajpur district of Orissa during the current financial year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has fixed any target in this regard during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which all Gram Panchayats are likely to be connected with the telephone facility in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (d) This department maintains data in respect of villages covered by Rural Telephony. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has already provided telephone facility at Samia and Dhanamandal Gram Panchayat of Jajpur District of Orissa. Kayina Gram Panchayat has been planned to be covered during the current financial year.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with BSNL in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100,lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 29.2.2008, out of this, 53,073 villages have been provided with VPTs and the remaining 13,749 villages will be provided with VPT facility by December 2008. A statement indicating State-wise number of uncovered villages, provided with telephone connections and the number of villages which are yet to be provided with telephone connections is given in the Annexure.